

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ISLAMA 04667 100708Z

16

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-13 AID-05 EB-07 /101 W

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P R 100605Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5412

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMCONSUL LAHORE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

CINCPAC

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY DACCA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 4667

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PK, IN

SUBJECT: INDO-PAK TALKS

REF: NEW DELHI 6844 (NOTAL)

1. GOP STATEMENT ON INDO-PAK TALKS BEGINNING MAY 12
WAS ACCURATELY GIVEN IN ISLAMABAD 4603. MFA DIRECTOR
GENERAL (SOUTH ASIA) HAYAT MEHDI, WHO DRAFTED STATEMENT,
TOLD POL COUNSELOR MAY 8 THAT HE HAD THOUGHT BRIEF
ANNOUNCEMENT WOULD BE MORE APPROPRIATE. HE SAID THAT
FACT THAT INDIAN STATEMENT WAS MORE COMPREHENSIVE HAD
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PAGE 02 ISLAMA 04667 100708Z

NO PARTICULAR SIGNIFICANCE. ACCORDING MEHDI, GOP

CONTINUES TO EXPECT THAT BOTH SIDES WILL RAISE WHATEVER SUBJECTS THEY WISH TO DISCUSS. SIMILAR APPROACH WAS USED DURING LAST ROUND OF CIVIL AIR TALKS A YEAR AGO, AND GOP WILL WELCOME TALKING ABOUT ANY MATTER PERTINENT TO INDO-PAK RELATIONS THE INDIANS MAY BRING UP.

2. MEHDI SAID HE CONTINUED TO BE OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE OUTCOME OF THE TALKS. HE WAS CONVINCED THAT THE CIVIL AIR ISSUE HAD IN EFFECT BEEN RESOLVED, AND ALL THAT REMAINED WAS TO WORK OUT TECHNICAL DETAILS. HE SAID THAT HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT AIR LINKS AND OVERFLIGHTS COULD BE ARRANGED SWIFTLY FOLLOWING NEGOTIATIONS INVOLVING THE CIVIL AIR AUTHORITIES OF BOTH COUNTRIES AND THE AIRLINES. HE ALSO EXPRESSED OPTIMISM THAT THE TALKS WOULD ACHIEVE A BREAKTHROUGH ON THE DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS ISSUE. HE

AFFIRMED THAT THIS REMAINS A PRIME GOP DESIDERATUM, AS IT HAS SINCE THE SIMLA CONFERENCE FOUR YEARS AGO. HE SAW A POTENTIAL STUMBLING BLOCK IN THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE INDIANS WOULD INSIST ON SPECIAL GUARANTEES FOR THE RIGHTS AND SECURITY OF THEIR OFFICIALS IN PAKISTAN. SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT, HE SAID, WAS NOT ACCEPTABLE TO THE GOP. ASKED ABOUT CANDIDATES TO TAKE OVER AS PAK AMBASSADOR TO NEW DELHI, MEHDI SAID THAT HE THOUGHT THE NOD WOULD GO TO ADDITIONAL FOREIGN SECRETARY SHAHNAWAZ, WHO HAS BEEN WAITING IN THE WINGS SINCE SIMLA.

3. MEHDI ALSO EXPRESSED PLEASURE THAT THE TALKS COULD BEGIN AS EARLY AS MAY 12 DESPITE WHAT HAD SEEMED TO BE SCHEDULING DIFFICULTIES (ISLAMABAD 4498). ATTITUDE OF GOP HAD BEEN TO MOVE AHEAD AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE BEFORE WHAT THEY TOOK TO BE FAVORABLE INDIAN MOOD MIGHT AGAIN CHANGE. TO FACILITATE EARLY SESSION, PAK FOREIGN SECRETARY AGHA SHAHI IS FOREGOING SCHEDULED ATTENDANCE AT ISTANBUL ISLAMIC FOREIGN MINISTERS' CONFERENCE AND WILL HEAD PAK DELEGATION HERE.
AMSTUTZ

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